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MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1942

WIGAN:
J. Starr & Sons. Ltd., Dawber Street Works
1943

Wigan Rural District Council

Chairman :

S. Horridge, Esq., J.P,

Vice-Chairman :

E. T. Hampson, Esq., J.P.

Councillors :

C. Bunker, Esq.

H. R. Dearden, Esq.

J. Graham, Esq.

R. I. Randall, Esq.

Clerk :

W. Gordon Pigot, Solicitor

Staff Public Health Department :

Medical Officer of Health.

Dorothy M. James. M.D., D.P.H.

Engineer, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

J. HOLDING.

Water Inspector :

W. R. WRIGHT

Bank Chambers,
Wallgate,
Wigan,
August, 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the Wigan Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report for the year 1942.

As in the previous year, the Report has been drawn up on the lines indicated in the Ministry of Health Circular, 2314, dated the 26th March, 1941, and in Circular 2773, dated 10th March, 1942, in which the Ministry stated that in view of the increasing pressure of work in the Public Health Departments of Local Authorities, and the need for strict economy in the use of paper, Annual Reports should be curtailed.

Again, for reasons of security, a detailed report of the Civil Defence Services cannot be given, but I consider the Services are working smoothly and appear adequate.

Work in connection with a Scheme for improving the Water Supply to one part of the District has been completed and reference to this is made in the Report.

I wish to thank you for your very kindly interest taken in all matters affecting the Health and Sanitation of the District. I also take this opportunity of thanking Mr. J. Holding and other members of the Staff for their valuable assistance during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
DOROTHY M. JAMES,
M.D., D.P.H.

Wigan Rural District Council

GENERAL STATISTICS

Acreage of Townships	11,696
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,252
Rateable Value of District	£41,098
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£165

VITAL STATISTICS

For the duration of the War parts of the Vital Statistics have been excluded from the Report.

DEATHS.—92 Deaths, 51 Males and 41 females, occurred during the year 1942, compared with 86 in 1941.

The causes of Death were :—

Deaths from Puerperal causes :	
Puerperal Sepsis	1
other Puerperal Causes	Nil.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil.

Deaths from all causes	Males	Females
Cerebro-spinal Fever	Nil.	1
T.B. Non-Respiratory	1	Nil.
Influenza	1	Nil.
Cancer of Buc. Cav.	3	Nil.
Cancer of Stomach	Nil.	1
Cancer of all other sites	2	3
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	7	8
Heart Disease	9	4
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	Nil.
Bronchitis	5	2
Pneumonia	1	2
Appendicitis	Nil.	1
Other Digestive Diseases	Nil.	1
Nephritis	1	2
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	1

	Male	Female
Other Maternal Causes	Nil.	1
Premature Birth	1	2
Congenital Malformation Birth Injuries	2	Nil.
Road Traffic Act	1	Nil.
Other Violent Causes	2	2
All other Causes	12	10
	51	41

The number of deaths in each Township was as follows:

Shevington	38
Wrightington	22
Parbold	14
Haigh	9
Dalton	5
Worthington	4
	92

CANCER.—9 deaths occurred from Cancer in 1942, compared with 12 in 1941.

INFANTILE DEATHS.—5 Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age occurred in 1942, 3 males and 2 females compared with 12 during 1941.

INFECTIOUS FEVERS.—94 cases of Infectious Fevers were notified compared with 144 cases in 1941.

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1942:

Disease	Admitted Hospital	Total Cases all ages	Under 1 yr.	1–	2–	3–	4–	5–	10–	15–	20–	35–	45–	Over 65–	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	1	7				1	1	3		1	1				
Pneumonia		10		1	1			1	1	1	1	2	2		3
Diphtheria	7	8			1		1	2	2	1		1			
Erysipelas															
Enteric & Para-typhoid															
Measles		37		3	4	3	4	23							
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2									2				1
Whooping Cough		20	2	1	4	3	5	4	1						
Chicken Pox		10	1		1		1	5	2						
TOTALS	10	94	3	5	11	7	12	38	6	3	4	3	2		4

Distribution over the several parishes was as follows:-

Wrightington

Scarlet Fever	3 cases
Diphtheria	4 ,,
Whooping Cough	2 ,,
Measles	3 ,,
Pneumonia	2 ,,
Chicken Pox	2 ,,
	16

Dalton

Whooping Cough	1 cases
Measles	9 ,,
	10

Parbold.

Scarlet Fever	1 cases
Whooping Cough	13 ,,
Chicken Pox	8 ,,
Measles	16 ,,
Pneumonia	5 ,,
	43

Shevington

Pneumonia	2 cases
Scarlet Fever	2 ,,
Diphtheria	3 ,,
Measles	5 ,,
Chicken Pox	4 ,,
Puerperal Pyrexia	2 ,,
	18

Worthington

Scarlet Fever	1 case.
	1

Haigh.

Measles	4 cases.
Diphtheria	1 ,,
Pneumonia	1 ,,
	6

DIPHTHERIA IN THE WRIGHTINGTON DISTRICT.—Three of the cases contracted diphtheria while patients in the Wrightington Hospital. All were non-residents in the District. The actual resident was not removed to the Isolation Hospital as it was only a mild form of the disease. Of the 8 cases of Diphtheria which were notified during 1942, only ONE had been inoculated. Clinical Diphtheria does occasionally occur in children who have received the Prophylactic Treatment, but as a rule the disease pursues a milder course. It has been found that a very small percentage of children fail to become immune either after an attack of diphtheria or after receiving the inoculations.

In the Shevington and Haigh Districts, all the cases were residents and were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.— The Immunisation of children against diphtheria was continued during the year 1942, and I am again able to report that there has been a very satisfactory response by the parents of the Rural District. The campaign is still being pressed with vigour.

School-children are treated at the Schools with the co-operation of the Head Teachers, while pre-school children are treated either at the Schools or at the Child Welfare Centre.

The injections are given by the Medical Officer of Health, assisted by the School Nurse. The immunising agents used are Alum precipitated toxoid for children under 10 years, in doses of 0.2.c.c. followed by 0.5.c.c. a month later. Children of 10 years and over receive three doses of I.C.C. Toxoid-Antitoxin Floccules at intervals of a fortnight. Immunity is acquired some three months after the final injection. Alum Precipitated Toxoid is supplied free of cost to the Practitioners in the district upon request.

Total number of children immunised since commencement of the Scheme in October, 1940.

Ages.	1940	1941	1942	Total.
Under 1 Year	1	3	—	4
1 ,,	4	26	28	58
2 years	5	30	15	50
3 ,,	8	34	20	62
4 ,,	2	26	23	51
5 ,,	12	90	34	136
6 ,,	11	69	15	95
7 ,,	28	64	6	98
8 ,,	19	48	7	74
9 ,,	23	57	8	88
10 ,,	32	45	5	82
11 ,,	25	48	6	79
12 ,,	19	45	7	71
13 ,,	12	34	2	48
14 ,,	4	2	—	6
Schick Tests	4	—	2	6
	205	621	176	1002

All the Schick Tests were negative.

Distribution over the several parishes was as follows :—

	1940	1941	1942
Wrightington	50	135	51
Dalton	38	40	8
Parbold	21	75	16
Shevington / Crooke	82	332	82
Worthington	Nil.	23	9
Haigh	14	16	10
	205	621	176

TUBERCULOSIS.—The notifications received during the Year under the Public Health (T.B.) Regulations, 1930, were as follows :—

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1942.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES. Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		DEATHS. Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	...
10	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	1	1	1	3	...	...	...	...
35	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65-over	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	4	1	7	9	—	—	1	—

All Tuberculosis cases were notified before death took place, and generally notification is prompt and satisfactory.

The County Council provide facilities for the treatment of Tuberculosis, and these services are fully used and appreciated. The Tuberculosis Dispensary for the Wigan Rural District is in Mesnes Park Terrace, Wigan, and patients may be referred there for examination by their own Doctor or by the School Medical Officer.

HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE SCHOOLS.

A School Clinic has been provided by the County Council at Ashfield House, Standish. It was opened in June, 1942. Children may attend for inspection and treatment for minor ailments. The Clinic has been very well atttended. Unfortunately, as yet, there is no Dental Clinic in the area. The Clinic is open for these purposes as follows :—

MONDAY—9-30 a.m. to 12 noon. Medical Officer and Nurse attends.

THURSDAY—9-30 a.m. to 12 noon. Minor Ailments. (Nurse only).

The routine Medical Inspections of the children in the Schools are carried out by the Medical Officer in her capacity as Assistant

County Medical Officer. Close Co-operation exists between the Medical Officer of Health, the School Teachers and the School Attendance Officer, The latter supplies a weekly return of the School Children who are absent from School through sickness.

School Closures.—It has not been found necessary to close any Schools during the year. However, towards the end of the year Measles and Chicken Pox were prevalent and a large percentage of children were absent from school on account of these Infectious Diseases.

MATERNITY AND INFANT WELFARE.—An Infant Welfare Clinic is provided by the County Council at the Parish Rooms, Shevington, The Medical Officer attends the Fourth Tuesday of the Month, and the Health Visitor attends the Second and Fourth Tuesdays of the Month, from 1-30 to 4-0 p.m. The Milk Officer also attends at the Clinic on the above dates, for the purpose of distributing Milk, Cod Liver Oil and Friut Juices, under the Government Scheme.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—A good supply of water is available in all Parishes, though there are still isolated houses which have their own private supplies.

The Parishes obtain supplies from the following sources :—

Haigh	Blackrod U.D.C.	Upland Surface Water
Worthington	Standish U.D.C.	Upland Surface Water
Shevington	Standish U.D.C.	Upland Surface Water
Parbold	Own Supply	Deep Well Water
Wrightington	Own Supply	Deep Well and Spring Water
Dalton	Wrightington	do.

New Supply to Wrightington.—During the year the new spring supply from Mossy Lea was brought into use and there is now no shortage of water supply in Wrightington.

Conversions.—During the year 5 privy closets were converted to pails. Movable ashbins were provided to 8 houses to replace ashpits.

The Council do not contribute towards the cost of conversions, and all the foregoing have been done in response to informal notices.

Public Cleansing.—Scavenging of the district is carried out by direct labour, and the Council's own Motor Wagon.

The Statistics for the last four years are as follows :—

	1939	1940	1941	1942
No. of Bins Emptied	55,830	50,200	48,000	49,000
No. of Closet Pails Emptied	17,750	16,630	15,000	16,000
No. of Ashpits Emptied	1,120	1,240	1,200	1,200
No. of Cesspools Emptied	30	25	20	10
Total Tonnage	4,180 tons	3,870 tons	3,900 tons	4,000 tons
Mileage	9,000 mls	8,500 mls	8,600 mls	9,000mls.
Total Cost	£1,308	£1,623	£1,685	£1,841

The method of disposal is by tipping into disused pits or hollow land, and the larger tips are covered as frequently as possible with earth and kept levelled.

SALVAGE.—Sorting out and Collecting materials essential to the War effort is also carried out by the refuse collectors and the following are the details of material sold during the year :—

T.	C.	Q.		Value.		
55	0	0	Baled Mixed Paper	£254	7	6
4	13	0	Scrap Metals	8	1	3
0	16	0	Bones	3	16	0
3	13	0	Rags	20	1	6
24	5	3	Loose Tins	24	5	9
88	7	3		£310	12	0

HOUSING.

General Housing Conditions.—Building development upon the outbreak of war practically stopped. Drainage is discharged into septic tanks, and the effluent into the nearest watercourse, or in some instances into the Council's sewer.

New Buildings.—During 1942, no new dwelling houses were erected in the Rural District.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—Lime washing is carried out twice during the year or as often as may be necessary. The number of Cowkeepers who are Accredited Producers is 9.

MILK SAMPLING.—Samples are taken quarterly by the Sanitary Inspector of all milk in the district supplied to School children.

No. of Dairy Farms in the District	84
Approximate Number of Cows	500
No. of Cowkeepers (including Dairy Farms)	138
Number on Register	138
Number of Inspections during the year	120
Dairymen other than cowkeepers	6
Number on Register	6

MEAT INSPECTIONS.—There are three registered slaughter houses two with shops attached and one other meat shop. Periodic inspections are made and any unsound meat rejected.

DOROTHY M. JAMES,

Medical Officer of Health.